

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

No. 16-cv-6848 (BMC)

-V-

PLATINUM MANAGEMENT (NY) LLC;  
PLATINUM CREDIT MANAGEMENT, L.P.;  
MARK NORDLICHT;  
DAVID LEVY;  
DANIEL SMALL;  
URI LANDESMAN;  
JOSEPH MANN;  
JOSEPH SANFILIPPO; and  
JEFFREY SHULSE,

Defendants.

**ELEVENTH INTERIM APPLICATION OF GOLDIN ASSOCIATES, LLC FOR  
ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF  
EXPENSES INCURRED DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2020  
THROUGH MARCH 31, 2020**

Goldin Associates, LLC (“Goldin”), as financial advisor to Melanie L. Cyganowski, the Court-appointed receiver (the “Receiver”) for Platinum Credit Management, L.P., Platinum Partners Credit Opportunities Master Fund LP (“PPCO”), Platinum Partners Credit Opportunities Fund (TE) LLC, Platinum Partners Credit Opportunities Fund LLC, Platinum Partners Credit Opportunity Fund (BL) LLC, Platinum Liquid Opportunity Management (NY) LLC, Platinum Partners Liquid Opportunity Fund (USA) L.P., Platinum Partners Liquid Opportunity Master Fund L.P, Platinum Partners Credit Opportunities Fund International Ltd, and Platinum Partners Credit Opportunities Fund International (A) Ltd. (collectively, the “Receivership Entities” or

“Platinum”),<sup>1</sup> hereby submits its Eleventh Interim Application for Allowance of Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred During the Period January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 (“Eleventh Interim Application”). Goldin respectfully requests interim approval for payment of \$137,160.56 in professional fees and reimbursement of \$41.29 in expenses incurred for January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 (the “Eleventh Application Period”).

Goldin’s Eleventh Interim Application contains the following sections:

(a) **Section I** contains a preliminary statement on Goldin’s activities in this case during the Eleventh Application Period.

(b) **Section II** contains information about Goldin and the case’s status, as required by Section C of the Billing Instructions for Receivers in Civil Actions Commenced by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC Receivership Billing Instructions”). Section II also includes a description of each exhibit to this Eleventh Interim Application, as well as the reduction in fees agreed to by Goldin in connection with its appointment as financial advisor to the Receiver.

(c) **Section III** contains a narrative of the work that Goldin professionals performed under each activity category, as required by Section D of the SEC Receivership Billing Instructions.

(d) **Section IV** summarizes the expenses for which Goldin seeks reimbursement, as required by Section E of the SEC Receivership Billing Instructions.

(e) **Section V** describes the standards to be applied by the Court in determining fee awards in SEC equity receiverships.

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<sup>1</sup> On December 29, 2017, the Court entered an order approving the expansion of the Receivership Estate to include the following entities: (i) Platinum Partners Liquid Opportunity Master Fund L.P.; (ii) Platinum Partners Credit Opportunities Fund International Ltd; and (iii) Platinum Partners Credit Opportunities Fund International (A) Ltd [Docket No. 298].

(f) **Section VI** describes the holdback arrangement to which Goldin has agreed.

## **I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. During the Eleventh Application Period, Goldin continued to assist the Receiver monetize the Receivership Estate's remaining assets. Goldin's disposition-related efforts included, but were not limited to, (i) assisting in the sale of the Platinum's royalty interest in Cokal; and (ii) devising disposition strategies for the remaining assets.

2. In addition to its disposition-related support work, during the Eleventh Application Period, Goldin provided support to the Receiver's legal counsel in connection with commenced and/or contemplated actions against various third parties, as well as with regard to certain filings in the instant receivership action.

3. Finally, during the Eleventh Application Period, Goldin continued to manage a variety of cash disbursement and budgeting protocols on behalf of the Receivership Estate. For instance, Goldin (i) prepared periodic 13-Week cash receipts and disbursements forecasts; (ii) performed weekly actual vs. forecasted variance analyses regarding Platinum's cash position; (iii) oversaw the procedures governing the review and approval of disbursements (including payroll); and (iv) conducted daily and weekly reconciliations of Platinum's cash and brokerage accounts.

## **II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Information about the Applicant and the Application**

4. **Application Period.** This application covers the period of January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020.

5. **Appointment of the Receiver.** On December 19, 2016, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York unsealed an eight-count indictment (the “Indictment”) against seven individuals who were formerly affiliated with Platinum, a purported \$1.7 billion hedge-fund family based in New York. The Indictment alleges that the defendants defrauded Platinum investors through, among other things, the overvaluation of assets, the concealment of severe cash flow problems and the preferential payment of redemptions. The Indictment also charges four of the defendants with defrauding the independent bondholders of Black Elk Energy Offshore Operations, LLC, a portfolio company owned by Platinum, through a fraudulent offering document and diverting more than \$95 million in proceeds to Platinum by falsely representing in the offering document that Platinum controlled approximately \$18 million of the bonds when, in fact, Platinum controlled more than \$98 million of the bonds.

On December 19, 2016, the SEC filed this action, asserting violations of the anti-fraud provisions of federal securities laws and seeking, among other relief, temporary and permanent injunctive relief, disgorgement of ill-gotten gains, imposition of civil penalties, and appointment of a receiver [Docket No. 1].

On December 19, 2016, the Court entered an Order to Show Cause and Temporary Restraining Order against the defendants, granting certain specified relief to the SEC, including the appointment of a receiver, and granting the receiver control over the assets of the Receivership Entities [Docket No. 5].

Also on December 19, 2016, the Court entered the Order Appointing Receiver, as amended on January 30, 2017 [Docket Nos. 6 and 59], naming Bart Schwartz as the initial receiver.

On January 31, 2017, the initial receiver sought to retain Cooley LLP as his counsel and Guidepost Solutions LLC to advise, assist and support him with his duties as receiver. [Docket Nos. 63 and 65]. Such retention applications were approved by the Court on February 17, 2017.

On June 23, 2017, Mr. Schwartz requested that the Court approve his resignation as receiver, effective upon the Court's appointment of a successor receiver [Docket No. 170]. On July 6, 2017, the Court accepted the resignation of Mr. Schwartz and appointed Melanie L. Cyganowski as his successor [Docket No. 216].

6. **Appointment of the Applicant.** The Amended Receiver Order authorized the Receiver to engage professionals to assist in fulfilling her duties. On July 21, 2017, the Court approved Goldin's retention as the Receiver's financial advisor *nunc pro tunc* to July 6, 2017 [Docket No. 232].

7. **Fee Schedule.** The names and hourly rates of all Goldin professionals who billed time during the Eleventh Application Period is attached as **Exhibit B** (the "Fee Schedule"). The fees requested in this Eleventh Interim Application were determined on the basis of the hours worked by Goldin professionals and Goldin's usual and customary hourly rates in effect at the time of its retention, as modified by a 10% public service discount.

8. **Prior Applications.** This application is interim and is Goldin's eleventh fee and expense application in this case. The fees and expenses requested by Goldin in its previous fee and expense applications were allowed and paid as follows:

Period	Order Date Docket No.	Amount Requested		Amount Allowed		Amount Paid to Date	
		Fees	Expenses	Fees	Expenses	Fees	Expenses
7/6/17-9/30/17	12/5/17 Docket No. 290	\$985,666.50	\$1,350.24	\$985,666.50	\$1,360.24	\$788,533.20	\$1,350.24
10/1/17-12/31/17	3/05/18 Docket No. 310	\$629,210.25	\$1,825.42	\$629,210.25	\$1,825.42	\$471,907.69	\$1,825.42
1/1/18-3/31/18	6/17/18 Docket No. 341	\$744,147.00	\$1,689.42	\$744,147.00	\$1,689.42	\$595,317.60	\$1,689.42
4/1/18-6/30/18	12/17/18 Docket No. 428	\$970,161.75	\$1,937.01	\$970,161.75	\$1,937.01	\$776,129.40	\$1,937.01
7/1/18-9/30/18	12/17/18 Docket No. 427	\$805,900.50	\$1,124.35	\$805,900.50	\$1,124.35	\$644,720.40	\$1,124.35
10/1/18-12/31/18	7/16/19 Docket No. 477	\$834,330.38	\$1,956.81	\$834,330.38	\$1,956.81	\$667,464.30	\$1,956.81
1/1/19-3/31/19	7/16/19 Docket No. 479	\$504,528.79	\$1,112.83	\$504,528.79	\$1,112.83	\$444,807.08	\$1,112.83
4/1/19-6/30/19	12/26/19 Docket No. 508	\$259,250.84	\$597.41	\$259,250.84	\$597.41	\$220,358.85	\$597.41
7/1/19-9/30/19	12/30/19 Docket No. 510	\$101,240.21	\$26.56	\$101,240.21	\$26.56	\$89,147.40	\$26.56
10/1/19-12/31/19	Docket No. 528	\$128,003.86	\$84.48	\$128,003.86	\$84.48	\$110,565.83	\$84.48

## B. Case Status

9. **Cash on Hand and Unencumbered Funds.** As of March 31, 2020, the Receivership Entities had approximately \$30.1 million in unencumbered funds, of which \$29.6 million was held in cash in bank accounts and the balance in brokerage accounts.

(a) **Accrued Administrative Expenses.** As of March 31, 2020, it is estimated that accrued, unpaid administrative expenses amount to approximately \$4.8 million. These administrative expenses primarily consist of accrued and unpaid professional fees. In addition to these unpaid administrative expenses, the Receivership Estate paid remaining in-house Platinum staff and other operating expenses during the Eleventh Application Period.

10. **Summary of Receipts and Disbursements.** Cash disbursements during the Eleventh Application Period totaled approximately \$5.9 million. This amount consisted primarily of (i) \$3,084,812 in disbursements to professionals; (ii) \$661,741 in business asset expenses (payroll and related expenses paid to Platinum employees, as well as office rent); and (iii) \$2,166,667 in third-party litigation expenses.

Cash receipts during the Application Period totaled \$5,395,000. This amount primarily consists of proceeds from prior and/or current settlements.

11. **Closing of Case.** Goldin cannot at this time state when the Receiver will deem it appropriate to seek the conclusion of this case.

12. **Summary of Creditor Claims Proceedings.** The Receivership Team has not yet initiated a formal claims process.

13. **Summary of Assets.** The primary assets of the Receivership Estate consist of the following:

- (a) Cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$30.1 million.
- (b) Real estate investments without any set book value, due to their inherently speculative nature.

(c) Natural resources investments, litigation financing, life settlement investments, energy and other miscellaneous investments.

14. **Liquidated and Unliquidated Claims.** The Receiver currently holds no liquidated litigation recoveries. The Receiver may, however, have causes of action against a number of parties and is currently considering associated claims, in addition to those already asserted, *see* note 2, *supra*.

**C. SEC Review**

15. Goldin submitted this Eleventh Interim Application to the SEC on May 6, 2020 to allow for a thirty-day review period, as required by the SEC Receivership Billing Instructions.

**D. Exhibits**

16. The Eleventh Interim Application contains the following exhibits:

(a) **Exhibit A:** The Standardized Fund Accounting Report (“SFAR”) for the period January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020.

(b) **Exhibit B:** A Fee Schedule showing the total fees billed, hours worked and hourly rates of each Goldin professional involved.

(c) **Exhibit C:** A summary of the total fees billed and hours worked by activity category.

(d) **Exhibit D:** All time records of Goldin professionals listed chronologically by activity category, as required by Section D.5 of the SEC Receivership Billing Instructions.

(e) **Exhibit E:** A summary of all expenses incurred by Goldin, organized by expense category, as required by Section E.1a of the SEC Receivership Billing Instructions.



(f) **Exhibit F:** The certification contemplated by Section A.1 of the SEC Receivership Billing Instructions.

### **III. SERVICES RENDERED BY GOLDIN DURING THE ELEVENTH APPLICATION PERIOD**

17. Goldin professionals recorded services performed in time increments of one tenth (0.1) of an hour. Goldin made use of a lean team; the senior professionals involved each brought distinct, but essential, expertise to the engagement and were the primary responsible party on different tasks.

18. Per Section D.3 of the SEC Receivership Billing Instructions, Goldin accounted for its time charges during the Eleventh Application Period by activity categories. Narrative summaries of these activity categories follow.

19. **Accounting (01).** \$18,506.25 requested. During the Eleventh Application Period, Goldin continued to manage a variety of cash disbursement and budgeting protocols. For example, on a weekly basis, Goldin prepared 13-week cash flow forecasts and variance analyses, which enhanced the Receivership Estate's ability to monitor and manage its cash position. Goldin also conducted periodic reconciliations of Platinum's cash and brokerage accounts as a control. Additionally, Goldin provided day-to-day oversight of Platinum's accounting function, which included monitoring work performed by Platinum's Chief Financial Officer. Alois Chakabva is the only Goldin professionals who billed time in this activity category during the Eleventh Application Period. Mr. Chakabva has principal responsibility for overseeing Platinum's cash disbursement and budgeting protocols.

20. **Asset Disposition (03).** \$65,918.25 requested. During the Eleventh Application Period, Goldin assisted the Receiver with respect to the monetization of Platinum's portfolio positions, including the sale of Platinum's royalty interest in Cokal. Goldin professionals who

billed time in this activity category during the Eleventh Application Period included Curt Solsvig and Brian Hasegawa. Mr. Solsvig has principal responsibility for executing disposition strategies on behalf of the Receivership Team, with Mr. Hasegawa providing analytical support.

21. **Case Administration (06).** \$50,085.00 requested. The Receivership Team endeavored throughout the Eleventh Application Period to administer the Receivership Estate efficiently. Accordingly, Goldin conferred frequently with the Receiver and her legal counsel to ensure that its efforts were coordinated with their own to maximize efficiency. In addition, Goldin's internal team members met to plan their approach to necessary tasks.

The effective administration of the Receivership Estate also entails communicating with third parties, including representatives of the Platinum Partners Value Arbitrage ("PPVA") funds, about the status of the Receivership, and addressing questions related thereto. In addition, Goldin assisted the Receiver and her legal counsel in drafting the status report filed with the Court on January 21, 2020. Goldin professionals who billed time in this activity category during the Eleventh Application Period included Marc Kirschner, William Edwards, Curtis Solsvig, Karthik Bhavaraju and Alois Chakabva. Mr. Kirschner and Mr. Edwards have principal responsibility for organizing Goldin personnel to ensure that their assigned tasks are executed effectively and efficiently. In that connection, Mr. Kirschner focuses principally on the oversight and administration of Goldin's forensic and disposition-related efforts, with Mr. Edwards focused on the management of Goldin's reporting obligations, as well as its interactions with the Receiver's legal counsel, investors and the SEC. The time billed by Mr. Solsvig and Mr. Chakabva in this category relate in significant measure to their participation in coordination meetings with members of the Receivership Team. Mr. Chakabva, along with Mr. Bhavaraju, also assisted the Receiver and her counsel with questions related to the PPVA funds.

22. **Litigation Consulting (14).**<sup>2</sup> \$2,651.06. During the Eleventh Application Period, Goldin provided analytical assistance to the Receiver and her legal counsel in connection with several contemplated and/or commenced legal actions, as well as with regard to filings in the instant receivership action. Goldin professionals who billed time in this activity category during the Eleventh Application Period included Marc Kirschner and Curtis Solsvig. Mr. Kirschner supervises and provides strategic direction to the efforts of Mr. Solsvig, as well as other Goldin professionals, in connection with their litigation support work.

#### **IV. EXPLANATION OF EXPENSES AND RELATED POLICIES**

23. Goldin seeks reimbursement of its out-of-pocket costs in the amount of \$41.29. Exhibit E sets forth various categories of expenses for which Goldin seeks reimbursement. Goldin will retain the documentation supporting these expenses for a period of seven years in accordance with the SEC Receivership Billing Instructions and will provide the SEC with copies of such materials upon request. Goldin's request for expense reimbursement complies with the SEC Receivership Billing Instructions.

#### **V. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COURT IN AWARDING FEES**

24. The case law on equity receiverships sets forth the standards for approving receiver compensation and the fees and expenses for the receiver's retained professionals. The District Court has discretion to determine compensation to be awarded to a court-appointed equity receiver and her retained professionals and "may consider all of the factors involved in a particular receivership in determining the appropriate fee." *Gaskill v. Gordon*, 27 F.3d 248, 253 (7th Cir. 1994). Many authorities (some quite dated) provide "convenient guidelines," but in the

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<sup>2</sup> At the outset of this engagement, Goldin agreed to provide a 10% public service discount in connection with its work as Financial Advisor to the Receiver. In addition, for tasks that fall within the "Litigation Consulting" activity category, Goldin has agreed to provide an additional discount of 25% on top of the aforementioned public service discount.

final analysis, “the unique fact situation renders direct reliance on precedent impossible.”

*Securities & Exchange Comm’n v. W.L. Moody & Co.*, 374 F. Supp. 465, 480 (S.D. Tex. 1974), *aff’d*, 519 F. 2d 1087 (5th Cir. 1975).

25. In allowing professional fees in receiverships, “[t]he court will consider . . . the complexity of problems faced, the benefit to the receivership estate, the quality of work performed, and the time records presented.” *Securities & Exchange Comm’n v. Fifth Ave. Coach Lines, Inc.*, 364 F. Supp. 1220, 1222 (S.D.N.Y. 1973); *see also United States v. Code Prods.*, 362 F.2d 669, 673 (3rd Cir. 1966) (court should consider the time, labor and skill required (but not necessarily expended), the fair value of such time, labor and skill, the degree of activity, the dispatch with which the work is conducted and the result obtained). “[R]esults are always relevant.” *Securities & Exchange Comm’n v. Elliott*, 953 F.2d 1560, 1577 (11th Cir. 1992), *quoting Moody*, 374 F. Supp. at 480, as are the extent to which “a receiver reasonably and diligently discharges his duties.” *Id.*

26. Under these standards Goldin has demonstrated that the amount of fees requested is appropriate. Goldin, in concert with the rest of the Receivership Team, has acted with appropriate dispatch to develop and execute monetization strategies for the Platinum assets. Given the unusual diversity and complexity of these assets, to say nothing of the fact that relevant documentation inherited from prior management requires careful scrutiny, Goldin has had to expend meaningful effort to prepare these assets for disposition, as well as to assist in the dispositions themselves. In addition, Goldin has worked diligently to assist in the development of actionable legal claims that, if successful, could provide meaningful recoveries to the Receivership Estate.

## VI. HOLDBACK

27. Goldin has agreed to hold back twenty percent (20%) of its allowed fees for all activity categories, save for the “Litigation Consulting” category. With regard to allowed fees associated with the “Litigation Consulting” category, Goldin has agreed to hold back five percent (5%) of these fees in view of the fee accommodation described in footnote 2 of this Eleventh Interim Application. The holdbacks described in this section, collectively, constitute the Holdback Amount. All payments will be made from the Receivership assets.

WHEREFORE, Goldin respectfully requests that the Court:

- (a) grant interim approval of Goldin’s request for compensation in the amount of \$137,160.56;
- (b) grant interim approval of Goldin’s request for reimbursement of its out-of-pocket expenses in the amount of \$41.29;
- (c) authorize the Receiver to immediately pay from the Receivership assets (i) the allowed fees of Goldin, less the Holdback Amount, plus (ii) 100% of the allowed out-of-pocket expenses of Goldin; and
- (d) grant such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

Dated: May 8, 2020  
New York, NY

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marc S. Kirschner  
Marc S. Kirschner  
Senior Managing Director  
Goldin Associates, LLC  
350 Fifth Avenue  
44<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10118  
Telephone: (212) 593-2255  
mkirschner@goldinassociates.com

Of Counsel:  
Jonathan E. Goldin  
General Counsel  
Goldin Associates, LLC  
350 Fifth Avenue  
44th Floor  
New York, NY 10118  
Telephone: (212) 593-2255  
jegoldin@goldinassociates.com